NOAA FISHERIES

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center provides critical science needed to conserve and manage marine life and their ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and South Atlantic.

Center Focus

- Stock assessment/population dynamics
- Ecosystem monitoring
- Habitat ecology
- Life history studies
- Socioeconomics
- Data management and analysis

Regional Fishery Management Councils Served

- South Atlantic
- Gulf of Mexico
- Caribbean

Focal Ecosystems

- Southeast U.S. Shelf
- Gulf of Mexico
- U.S. Caribbean
- Atlantic High Seas

Our Strengths

- State-of-the art stock assessment methods, including novel techniques for assessing data-poor stocks
- Bycatch reduction technologies
- Marine Protected Area research and monitoring
- Biodiversity studies
- Sea turtle and marine mammal research
- Social science and economics research
- Cooperative research
- Training and mentoring the next generation of marine scientists

What Makes Us Unique

- Broad range of management partners – South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils; Highly Migratory Species Division; Gulf States and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions; and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- SEDAR (Southeast Data Assessment and Review) – a cooperative process to generate and peer-review fishery stock assessments
- Collaboration on Deepwater Horizon oil spill damage assessment and restoration efforts, including Restore Act activities
- Sea Turtle captive rearing facility
- Bycatch reduction engineering, in collaboration with the fishing industry
- Program for ensuring that the removal of oil platforms does not adversely impact protected resources
- Research on tropical and sub-tropical species in an area typified by high species diversity
- Research on and restoration of the northern Gulf of Mexico—the largest area of wetlands in the continental United States, which also is experiencing the highest rates of wetland loss

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Key Species

- Snappers
- Groupers
- Bluefin Tuna
- Billfishes
- Shrimp
- King Mackerel
- Sharks
- Spiny Lobster
- Menhaden
- Sea Turtles
- Corals
- Bottlenose Dolphins
- Right Whales

Technologies Employed

- Advanced Research Vessels
- Stereo Camera Arrays
- Satellite Oceanography
- Remotely Operated Vehicles
- Acoustics
- Population Genetics
- Electronic Tags

- Research and monitoring on protected coral species
- Improved fishery-independent data collection through advanced sampling technologies
- Advancement of electronic reporting for commercial and recreational landings
- making
- Development of an adaptive management approach to habitat restoration in the Gulf of Mexico

New Directions

- Restoration and monitoring in the Gulf in response to the Deep Water Horizon oil spill
- Protected coral science
- Impacts of climate on fisheries
- Advanced technologies/remote technologies

Center Snapshot

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Deputy Director: Theo Brainerd, PhD

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